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1. (Amended) A method for facilitating a real-time chat session between a first user and a second user, both visiting a first web server, the method comprising:

receiving, from the first user, a first user ID corresponding to the first user and an address of the first web server;

receiving, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the address of the first web server;

providing, to the first user, at least an indication of the second user ID;

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receiving, from the first user, a request to open a semi-public chat session with the second user;

transmitting, to the second user, an indication that the first user has requested the semi-public chat session; and

receiving, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the semi-public chat session designated by the first user.

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4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-public chat session is visible only to users having a predetermined user profile.

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7. (Amended) A method for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, the method comprising:

receiving, from the user, a designation of the first web site as a homepage, wherein the homepage is any web site on a communication network;

monitoring usage of the homepage by a plurality of users; and

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transmitting data representative of the usage to the user when the user is connected to a communication network.

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12. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for facilitating a chat session between a first user and second user, both visiting a first web server, the method comprising:

receiving, from the first user, a first user ID corresponding to the first user and an address of the first web server;

receiving, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the address of the first web server;

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providing, to the first user, at least an indication of the second user ID;

receiving, from the first user, a request to open a semi-public chat session with the second user;

transmitting, to the second user, an indication that the first user has requested the semi-public chat session; and

receiving, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the semi-public chat session designated by the first user.

13. (Amended) An apparatus for facilitating a semi-public chat session between a first user and second user, both visiting a first web server, comprising:
a processor; and

a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions to:

receive, from the first user, a first user ID corresponding to the first user and an address of the first web server;

receive, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the address of the first web server;

provide, to the first user, at least an indication of the second user ID;

receive, from the first user, a request to open a semi-public chat session with the second user;

transmit, to the second user, an indication that the first user has requested the semi-public chat session; and

receive, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the semi-public chat session designated by the first user.

14. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, the method comprising:

receiving, from the user, a designation of the first web page as a homepage wherein the homepage is any web site on a communication network;

monitoring usage of the homepage by a plurality of users; and

transmitting data representative of the usage to the user when the user is connected to the communication network.

15. (Amended) An apparatus for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions to:

receive, from the user, a designation of the first web page as a homepage wherein the homepage is any web site on a communication network;

monitor usage of the homepage by a plurality of users; and

transmit data representative of the usage to the user when the user is connected to the communication network.